IV. What do lexicographers need to know about plant names?

Semantic Motivation of Plant Names as a Part of their Etymology

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As is generally known, etymology is the settlement of the origin of words. The essence of etymological research is both a reconstruction of the original form of the word (its root), and its original – etymological – meaning. Let us quote here the sentence written by Wiesław Boryś, author of the first full Polish etymological dictionary: "The task of etymological research is to reproduce the original motivation of the given word (indication of its immediate derivative basis), to detect and explain its structure, to indicate word-formation morphemes and to reproduce its supposed primary meaning and explain its further semantic development" (Boryś SEJP: 5). Thus, the etymology includes, besides reaching the original form, the presentation of its semantic motivation and the semantic development of the given word. None of these elements of reconstruction can dominate and none can be omitted either. Franciszek Sławski, eminent Polish Slavicist, even claims that "the reconstruction of the motivation should be considered as the basic goal of etymology" (Sławski 1998: 4).

A number of studies have been dedicated to the question of semantic motivation in etymology; see, for instance, Siatkowski (1989), Varbot (1997: 35), Tolstaja (2008: 188–190) and Jakubowicz (2010: 29–33). However, a detailed

discussion of problems related to this issue is beyond the scope of this paper. Let us just refer to Waniakowa's book (2012: 66–67) where she defines the semantic motivation as a nominating mechanism, which triggers a new meaning (see also Jakubowicz 2010: 32).

In the case of plant names, especially non-scientific ones, this new meaning is frequently based on connotative properties, associated with particular genera or species of plants. This motivation should be expanded to include affective and evaluative factors with reference to historical and dialectal phytonyms.

A good knowledge of various aspects connected with plants is needed to investigate the semantic motivation of plant names. One of the prerequisites is an appropriate cognizance of botany, involving in particular the identification of plants and their typical features, such as general appearance, shape and appearance of leaves, colour and shape of flowers, fragrance, blossoming period and potential healing properties. Another key factor is learning about the usage of plants in the countryside. This may include healing properties, alleged magical properties, customs associated with plants, beliefs and legends. It is related to the researcher's knowledge of how a plant was perceived and used in the past (including antiquity), because one can often encounter old names. Only a proper erudition connected with all these aspects can guarantee a correct reconstruction of the semantic motivation of plant names (Waniakowa 2012: 67).

According to scholars (see e.g. Tokarski 1993: 340–341), properties of plants which are the most important for a human being can be classified into three groups:

- environmental characteristics (including the blossoming period, as the most significant for the development of the plant, and harvest time),
- physical properties,
- functional properties (usage of the plant).

Researchers studying dialectal plant names, such as Pelcowa (2001: 100), underline the belief in extraordinary – evil or good – powers of selected plants and legends associated with them play an important role in the process of naming

plants. This includes religious references and superstitions, but various symbolic connotations are important too.

In this chapter, we will present a typology of possible semantic motivations for plant naming in various European languages and their dialects.

Semantic motivations for plant names

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned criteria of semantic classification of names enumerated by researchers studying historical and dialectal plant names, we can present the following general motivational mechanisms to establish the basis of the semantic motivation of names in the process of nomination:

- the appearance of the plant;
- the place of its occurrence;
- the properties of the plant;
- its usage;
- other motivations typical of a specific genus or species[1].

Each of these factors can influence plant names.

It is obvious that each of these general motivations involves a range of detailed ones (Waniakowa 2012: 67–68). It should also be noted that a large number of phytonyms refer to at least two properties of "given" species, for instance to the appearance and the place of occurrence, especially since many of the names are two-word compounds. Metaphorical plant names, which are also abundant in botanical nomenclature, represent a separate issue. They comprise secondary names, so in each case the basis for the metaphor, i.e. its primary motivation, should be deciphered. Secondary names also include names transformed due to an association with another name; this process is often linked to folk etymology. Another group comprises names that have evolved from other plant species based

[1] The commemoration of somebody or the origin of the plant can be this kind of motivation. The latter can be seen, for instance, in the Polish names of sweet flag, Acorus calamus L.: *tatarski korzeń* literally 'Tatar root', *tatarczuk, tatar* and others, as well as the general Polish name *tatarak* 'Tatar plant)'.

on some similarity; and another group is associated with beliefs and legends, but in this case a certain feature of the plant (i.e. given species) constitutes the motivational basis, too (Waniakowa 2012: 72).

Thus we can present four main factors conditioning the semantic classification of plant names, which are the following:

- the appearance of plants,
- the properties of plants,
- the place of occurrence of plants,
- the usage of plants.

The majority of these main motivations are composed of many particular elements.

Plant names connected with the appearance of plants hide a multitude of detailed motivations, for instance: the colour of flowers, the appearance of inflorescences, the shape of flowers, characteristic infructescence, specific seeds (e.g. their colour), characteristic leaves, the shape of leaves, the size of leaves, the colour of leaves, the arrangement of leaves, the shape of the root, the appearance of whole plants and the physical similarity to other plants. It is worth remembering that some species have many names connected with the appearance in different stages of vegetation because they change their look.

Plant names associated with the properties of plants are also very diversified. For example, phytonyms connected with sounds made by plants (e.g. rustling, scraping), specific tactile impressions made by plants (e.g. hair, thorns), characteristic features of flowers, characteristic fruits, specific features of the whole plant, healing properties (e.g. pain-killing, stanching blood, healing wounds), specific vegetative properties (e.g. speed of mellowing), blossoming time, harvest time, smell, chemical reactions caused by plants (e.g. the ability to make foam), characteristic properties of juice, specific taste, negative properties (e.g. poisonous, intoxicant), positive properties (e.g. honey-yielding, milk-producing), supposed magical powers (e.g. apotropaic), positive powers (legends and beliefs) as well as properties characteristic to other species.

The names associated with the usage of plants are significantly less diversified. This group involves names connected with assignment of a species for fodder, names associated with using a species as a medicine and names connected with applying given species in the household. All the above-mentioned features of plants can be the basis of motivation for their names. This is why there are so many (dialectal and historical) names for one species in every language. Each species can have many names motivated by its various features; a given name depends on the feature that was considered as the most important by people who named the species in a given time and place. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned remarks, the following schema (cf. Figure 1) of main factors influencing the semantic classification of plant names can be presented. Subsequently, Table 1 presents main motivations of plant names with some examples of names in various languages:

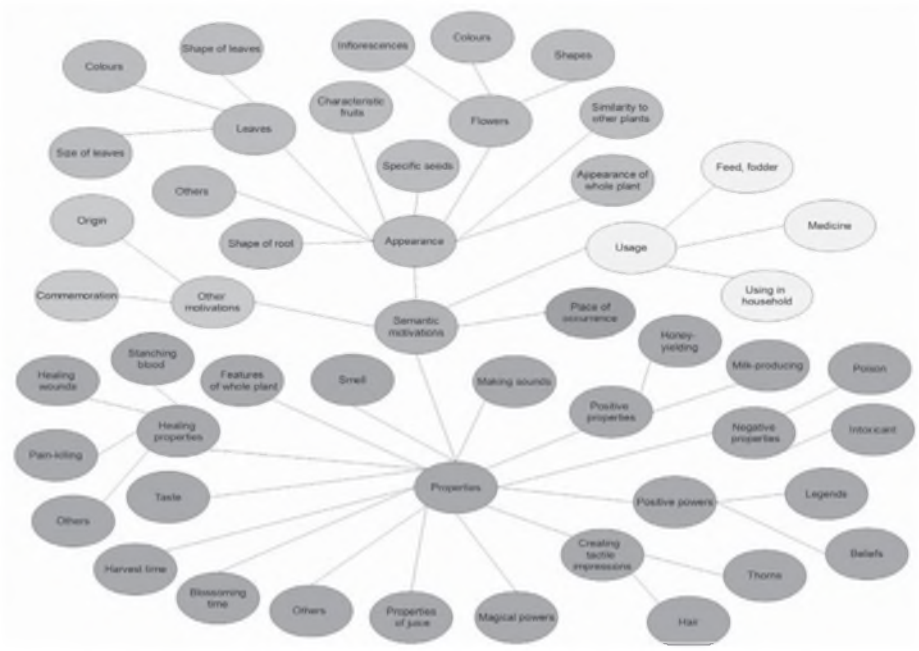

Figure 1. Main factors influencing the semantic classification of plant names

ASPECT/ PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
colour of flowers	**cornflower, Centaurea cyanus L.**	Fr. *bleuet*; Pol. *chaber bławatek*; Pol. dial. *bławat*; Slovak *blavač* (cf. Buffa 1972); Sp. *azulejo*; Ukr. dial. *blavat* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 86).	These names are derived from adjectives meaning 'blue'.
appearance of inflorescences	**mullein, Verbascum**	Brus. dial. *царская свечка* (cf. Kiselevskij 1967); Bulg. dial. *царска свещь* (cf. Achtarov 1939); Czech dial. *svíce královská* (cf. Kosík 1941); Germ. *Königskerze*; Pol. dial. *królewska świeca*; Port. *vela-de-bruxa*; Russ. dial. *царская свеча* (cf. Annenkov 1878); Serb. dial. *краљевска свиђа* (cf. Simonović BR); Ukr. dial. *carśka svička* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 394).	All these names mean literally 'king's candle', except the Portuguese one ('hag's candle').
shape of flowers	**monk's-hood, Aconitum firmum (Rchb.) Neilr., syn. Aconitum napellus L.**	Czech dial. *pantoflíčky* (cf. Kosík 1941); Fr. dial. *pantoufes de Marie* (cf. Marzell 2000 I col. 101); Germ. dial. *Pantoffeln* (cf. Marzell 2000 I col. 102); Pol. dial. *pantofelki*.	All these names evoke words for 'slippers'.
characteristic infructescence	**dandelion, Taraxacum officinale Web.**	Croat. dial. *puhalica, puhavka* (cf. Šugar HBI); Pol. *dmuchawiec*; Pol. dial. *pępawa*; Slovak *púpava*.	These names are derived from verbs meaning 'to blow' or 'to swell'.
characteristic leaves	**broadleaf plantain, Plantago maior L.**	Fr. *plantain à cinq nerfs* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 825); Germ. *Fünfadern-Kraut* (1738), *Fünfadere(n)krut* (1852), *Fiefaderblatt* (1939) (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 810); Kash. *pięciożyłki*; Med. Lat. *quinquenervia maior* (cf. Symb. I 305-306).	These names evoke five nerves on the broadleaf plantain's leaves.

ASPECT/ PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
shape of leaves	**dandelion, Taraxacum officinale Web.**	Engl. dial. *lion's tooth*; Germ. *Löwenzahn*; Med. Lat. *dens leonis* (13th century) (cf. Symb. I 341; Marzell 2000 IV col. 601); Old Fr. *dent de lion*; Pol. dial. *lwi ząb*; Port. *dente-de-leão*; Russ. dial. *львиный зубъ, львиный зубецъ* (cf. Annenkov 1878); Czech dial. *lví zub* (cf. Kosík 1941; Rystonová 2007); Slovak dial. *levský zub, ľví zubec* (cf. Buffa 1972: 389); Sloven. dial. *levov zob* (cf. Theissen 2005: 211).	All these names mean literally 'lion's tooth'.
colour of leaves	**common silverweed (midsummer silver), Potentilla anserina L.**	Brus. dial. *сребник, срибник, сярэбранік* (cf. Kiselevskij 1967; Pastusiak 2007); Czech dial. *stříbrník, stříbrníček*; Dutch *zilverkruid* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 1006); Fr. *argentine* (1581), *herbe argentée* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 1006); Germ. *Silberkraut* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 1006); It. *argentina* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 1006); Med. Lat. *argentaria, argentina* (cf. Symb. I 193; Marzell 2000 III col. 999); Pol. dial. *srebrnik*; Russ. dial. *серебрянникъ* (cf. Annenkov 1878); Slovak dial. *striebrník* (cf. Machek 1954: 102-103; Čouka 1929; Buffa 1972).	These names refer to 'silver', such as the English one.
shape of the root	**snakeroot, Polygonum bistorta L.**	Brus. dial. *венжоўнік, венжовникъ* (cf. Annenkov 1878; Kiselevskij 1967); Germ. *Schlangenwurz*; Med. Lat. *colubrina, dragantea, dragentea, dragenthea, dragon, dragonthea, draguntea, serpentaria, serpentaria maior, serpentina, serpentina maior, serpentina rubea, viperina, viperana, viperaria, viperina rubea* (cf. Symb. I 153; Marzell 2000 III col. 907); Pol. *wężownik*; Russ. *змеиный ко́рень*; Ukr. dial. *užovnyk* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 285).	All these names are derived from words for 'snake' or 'adder'.

ASPECT/ PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
appearance of the whole plant	**common knotgrass, Polygonum aviculare L.**	Croat. dial. *žicara* (cf. Šugar HBI); Engl. *iron grass* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 898); Fr. *herbe de fer* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 898); Germ. *eisenkrut* (15th century), *Eisenkraut, Eisengras* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 898); Pol. dial. *drutowiec.*	These names evoke a 'wire' or 'iron'.

PROPERTIES OF THE PLANTS

ASPECT/ PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
making sounds	**cabbage thistle, Cirsium oleraceum (L.) Scop.**	Brus. dial. *хробуст, хрыбуст* (cf. Pastusiak 2007); Croat. dial. *škrbinka* (cf. Šugar HBI); Pol. dial. *chrobust* (cf. Waniakowa 2012: 96); Ukr. dial. *χrobust, χrabust* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 100).	All these names are derived from verbs meaning 'to scrape', 'to rattle'.
creating specific tactile impressions	**running clubmoss, Lycopodium clavatum L.**	Czech *medvědí lapa* (cf. Machek 1954: 27); Germ. *Bärenlapp* (reg. 1741) and others (cf. Marzell 2000 II col. 1477, 1479-1480); Med. Lat. *pes ursinus*; Pol. dial. *łapa niedźwiedzia* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Slovak dial. *medvedi noha, medvedia tlapa* (cf. Buffa 1972).	These names mean literally 'bear's paw'.
characteristic features of flowers	**dwarf everlast, Helichrysum arenarium (L.) Moench**	Czech dial. *slaměnka*; Dan. *stråblomst* (1845, 1850); Dutch *stroobloem*; Fr. *fleur de paille*; Germ. *Sand-Strohblume*; Germ. dial. *Strohblaum, Striehbloume, Strîhblâm* and many others; (cf. Marzell 2000 II col. 783); Lith. *šiaudinė, šiaudinėlis, šiaudinikė, šiaudinukas* (cf. LKŽ s.v.); Pol. *słomianka*; Rom. *flori-de-paie* (cf. Marzell 2000 II col. 783); Slovak dial. *slamiha* (cf. Machek 1954: 241); Swed. *stråblomster* (1877).	All these names are derived from words for 'straw'.

ASPECT/ PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
characteristic fruits	**thorn-apple, Datura stramonium L.**	Croat. dial. *bodeća jabuka* (cf. Šugar HBI); Czech *jablko trnové, bodlavé jablko* (cf. Kosík 1941); Germ. *gemeiner Stechapfel*; Pol. dial. *jabłko cierniste* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Russ. dial. *колюки-яблоки* (cf. Annenkov 1878); Serb. dial. *бодећа јабука, бодљива јабука* (cf. Simonović BR); Slovak *ježkové jablko* (cf. Machek 1954: 208); Sloven. dial. *bodeča jabuka* (cf. Karlin 1964).	All these names, including the English one, mean 'pricking apple', 'apple with thorns'.
specific features of the whole plant	**running clubmoss, Lycopodium clavatum L.**	Czech dial. *vlačeha, vláčeha* (cf. Kosík 1941; Rystonová 2007); Pol. dial. *czołga, włóczęga* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Slovak dial. *vlačuha* (cf. Buffa 1972).	These names are derived from verbs meaning 'to crawl, to creep'.
healing properties	**plantain, Plantago**	Czech dial. *ranocel* (cf. Rystonová 2007); Germ. *Wundkraut* (cf. Marzell 2000 III col. 830); Kash. *gojące listki* (cf. Waniakowa 2012);ol. dial. *ranocel*; Pol. dial. *ranocel*; Slovak *ranocel* (cf. Buffa 1972); Ukr. dial. *hojove łysta* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 279).	These names evoke words for 'wound' and/ or 'to heal, to cure'.
blossoming time	**common chicory, Cichorium intybus L.**	Croat. dial. *peter, petriš* (cf. Šugar HBI); Czech dial. *koření sv. Petra* (cf. Kosík 1941); Pol. dial. *korzeń św. Piotra* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Serb. dial. *nemep* (cf. Simonović BR); Slovak *koreň sv. Petra, korenie sv. Petra* (cf. Buffa 1972).	All these names refer to St. Peter whose feast is observed on the 29th of June.
smell	**valerian, Valeriana officinalis L.**	Old Czech, Czech dial. *kozlík*, Czech dial. *kozelec* (cf. Machek 1954: 224; Hladká 2000); Pol. dial. *koziołek* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Russ. dial. *козелок, козіолкы, козельцовый корень* and others (cf. Annenkov 1878); Slovak *kozlík* (cf. Buffa 1972); Ukr. dial. *kozlak* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 391).	These names mean or refer to 'little buck'; the designation is connected with the buck-like smell of valerian's root which is used to make medicines.

ASPECT/ PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
causing chemical reactions	**common soapwort, Saponaria officinalis L.**	Czech *kořen mýdlový* (cf. Rystonová 2007); Fr. dial. *herbe à savon*; It. *erba savona*; Germ. *Seifenkraut*; Med. Lat. *saponaria* (cf. Symb. I 159); Pol. *mydlnica lekarska*; Russ. dial. *мыльный корень* (cf. Annenkov 1878); Slovak *mydlový koreň, mydelny koreň, mydlikoreň* (cf. Buffa 1972); Ukr. dial. *mylnyj koriń* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 331).	All these names evoke 'soap' due to common soapwort's ability to make foam.
positive properties	**yellow sweet clover, Melilotus officinalis (L.) Pall.**	Bulg. dial. *медна детелина, медовенъ трилистникъ* (cf. Achtarov 1939); Germ. *Honigklee*; Med. Lat. *melilotum, melilotus, mellilotum, mellilotus* and others (cf. Symb. I 210; Marzell 2000 III col. 123); Pol. dial. *miodownik* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Sloven. dial. *medena detelja* (cf. Karlin 1964).	All these names are derived from words for 'honey'.
supposed magic powers	**running clubmoss, Lycopodium clavatum L.**	Brus. dial. *бабін мур* (cf. Kiselevskij 1967); Pol. dial. *babimór, morzybab* (cf. Waniakowa 2012).	According to folk beliefs running clubmoss' sprouts hung under the ceiling in the bedroom on the day of Corpus Christi oppose evil forces and protect against nightmares. The dialectal sources say also that the plant is used especially against witches, property which is evoked in the referred names ('hag killer').
positive powers (legends and beliefs)	**forget-me-not, Myosotis**	Fr. *ne-m'oubliez-pas*; Germ. *Vergißmeinnicht*; It. *non ti scordar di me*; Pol. *niezapominajka*; Port. *não-me-esqueças*; Rom. *nu mă uita*; Russ. *незабудка*; Sp. *nomeolvides* (cf. Waniakowa 2015).	All these names correspond to the English one.

ASPECT/ PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
properties characteristic for other species	**dandelion, Taraxacum officinale Web.**	Brus. dial. *дикая цикорія* (cf. Annenkov 1878); *жоўтая цыкор'я* (cf. Kiselevskij 1967; Kolosova 2009: 188); Pol. dial. *cykoria, dzika cykoria, cykoria żółta* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Russ. dial. *дикая цикория, дикій цикорь, желтая цыкорія*; (cf. Kolosova 2009: 188; Annenkov 1878); Ukr. dial. *cykoryja* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 366).	All these names mention chicory because the root of dandelion was used as its substitute.

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE

ASPECT / PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
place of occurrence	**plantain, Plantago**	Brus. dial. *подорожнік* (cf. Chodurska 2003: 93); Dutch *weegbree*; Germ. *Wegerich*; Pol. dial. *podróżnik* (cf. Waniakowa 2011); Russ. *подорожник*, Russ. dial. *дорожник, придорожник* (cf. Annenkov 1878); Slovak dial. *cestni zelina* (cf. Buffa 1972); Ukr. dial. *podorožnyk* (cf. Makowiecki 1936).	All these names derive from words meaning 'way, road, path'.

USAGE OF PLANTS

ASPECT / PROPERTY	BOTANIC NAMES IN ENGLISH AND LATIN	NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES	REMARKS
using given species in the household	**common agrimony, Agrimonia eupatoria L.**	Pol. dial. *parzydło* (cf. Waniakowa 2012); Russ. dial. *парыло* and *судопаръ, судопоръ* (cf. Annenkov 1878); Ukr. dial. *paryło* (cf. Makowiecki 1936: 15).	These names derive from verbs meaning 'to burn, to scald' and some of them also refer to 'pottery' because the plant was used to fire pots in folk culture.

Table 1. Main motivations of plant names

Certain characteristics of plants evoke definite associations, hence – generally speaking – we are dealing with metaphorical names that are secondary. Metaphors can lead to further references, Christian legends or to various beliefs associated with plants in general (healing properties, supposed magical powers, customs, etc.). For example, St. John's wort was considered in the Middle Ages as a plant driving away the devil and for this reason was called *fuga demonium* in Latin (Marzell 2000 II col. 939).

The majority of names referring to Christian legends contain elements of anthroponymy. It should be noted that some plant names that have a long tradition are motivated by various relations to the rites of the church year or with the church calendar. The phytonyms connected with the names of saints seem to indicate that some species were given healing or magical power by their patrons or, because of the role of the names of saints in the Christian calendar, only inform about the time of important phases of vegetation: their flowering or fruiting (cf. Rogowska-Cybulska 2007: 190).

In the domain of metaphorical plant names in the nomination process, firstly, one recognizes a characteristic feature of the plant (species), perhaps not very important objectively, but important for the society which is naming it. Secondly, this feature is processed in such a way that, on the basis of some kind of similarity to an object for which this feature is typical, the name of the object is transferred to this species of plant. In other words, a connection is made between the plant species and an object. Each time the plant name is renamed the relation is renewed. Someone who sees the plant and gets to know its name automatically deciphers the semantic motivation of the name and the basis of the metaphor.

Therefore, names based on similarity to other plants, including depreciative names (on the basis of a stereotype), names associated with properties characteristic for another plant, names associated with the supposed magical properties (e.g. apotropaic), names connected with tradition (legends, beliefs) and names associated with the use of the plant as a medicine can be considered as secondary names.

Colours in plant names

As we have just seen, botanic names constitute a complex field of research. One of the basic problems is the enormity of the material; each one of the huge number of species has many names in standard variety and in the dialects of a given language. Collection, consideration and detailed analysis of all of them (from the semantic, historical-comparative and etymological point of view) is an impossible task. A researcher can never say that he/she has gathered all the names of a species. The material is always incomplete because in a small geographical area or in any historical period an unknown name could be used.

Assigning a name to a particular species of plant is an extremely complicated task. Researchers have always had problems with correct identification of plants; many botanists and linguists emphasize it. It is worth noticing that the development stage of a plant also has great importance in its identification. Namely, a given plant can easily be confused with another one in the early stages of growth or in the final stage, after flowering, especially when it begins to die off (cf. Waniakowa 2012: 37).

As it is known, plants received their names with regard to their appearance (shape, construction, colour, flavour, aroma, etc.), features (for instance magic or curative), locus and purpose. Hence the names usually refer to features strongly associated with the species, considered as typical of them (cf. Wierzbicka 2002: 552). They reflect the current knowledge of given communities which relies on the so called connotative features. Namely, typical characteristics of specimens that become the basis of stereotypes, including often purely external features of the plants that, in fact, are not always important. Properties of plants, which are most important for man, can be divided into three general groups (Tokarski 1993: 340–341):

- environmental characteristics (including its blossoming period as the most significant for the development of the plant),
- physical characteristics,
- purpose.

The role of magical powers attributed to certain plant species should be stressed. Therefore, there is the problem of taboo, concerning particularly toxic and medicinal plants. Names resulting from this taboo have a specific structure: they do not refer directly to a particular species because "a magical plant is not called by its actual name" (Brückner SEJP 362).

It should be remembered that a species is usually characterized by several attributes at once. Each of these features can be the basis of a name because someone who is naming a plant is drawing attention generally to one of many characteristics of the species. If we consider that each of these features can be the basis of many names, we have a huge number of possibilities. Moreover, the same species may have different names depending on the perception of individual stages of specimens. We should also consider that in history many names passed from species to species because of alleged similarities or a similar purpose of these plants. Therefore, a large number of plant names are connected with a multitude of possible semantic motivations in the process of the naming of species.

The system of semantic division of names intersects with another one which is based on metaphorical plant names. The problem of their metaphorical character has been mentioned many times in linguistic literature on different occasions. The Czech researcher Z. Hladká (2000) has dedicated a monograph to this problem. Various features of botanical species are the basis of metaphors in plant names. Therefore, metaphorical plant names are secondary because we have to decipher the origin of the metaphor each time, which equals discovering their original semantic motivation.

Analysis

Some groups of plant names that were motivated in various ways by colours will hereby be presented. Examples of names in European languages and in their dialects that will be shown have mainly been taken from Marzell 2000, André 1956, Waniakowa 2012, Annenkov 1878, Makowiecki 1936, Genaust 2005 and Clifford & Bostock 2007.

Firstly, colours are used in plant names which are motivated by the appearance of these plants. They are usually connected with the colour of the flowers, but sometimes also concern other parts of the plants, for instance foliage and stalks. This is an old tradition, dating back to Ancient Greek. Some historical Greek plant names containing the colour red as an element (cf. Gr. ἐρυθρός 'red') will now be quoted:

historical Greek name	**scientific name**	**English name**	**semantic motivation**
ἐρυθρόκομος (Pliny the Elder, 1st c. AD)	*Punica granatum* L. (from Samos)	pomegranate from Samos	red foliage
ἐρυθρόδανον (Dioscorides, Pliny the Elder, 1st c. AD)	*Calystegia soldanella* Br.	seashore false bindweed, shore bindweed, shore convolvulus	red stalks
ἐρυθρόνιον (Dioscorides, 1st c. AD)	*Erythronium*	fawn lily, trout lily	pink or red flowers
σατύριον **ἐρυθρᾶικόν** (Discorides, 1st c. AD)	*Erythronium dens canis* L.	dog's-tooth-violet	pink or purple flowers

Names of colours appear also in historical (i.e. pre-Linnaean) Latin plant names. There are some examples:

historical Latin name	**scientific name**	**English name**	**semantic motivation**
Herba ***lutea***	*Genista tinctoria* L.	dyer's greenweed	yellow flowers (Lat. *lūteus* 'yellow, reddish')
	Reseda luteola L.	yellow weed, dyer's weed (sic!)	
Virga ***aurea***	*Senecio nemorensis* L.	alpine ragwort	yellow flowers (Lat. *aureus* 'golden')
	Solidago virga-aurea L.	European goldenrod	
Coma ***aurea***	*Helichrysum* (*stoechas* DC.)	dwarf (everlasting)	
Gramen ***aureum***	*Trisetum flavescens* (L.) P. Beauv.	yellow oat grass	golden yellow panicles
Spina ***alba***	*Cirsium eriophorum* (L.) Scop.	woolly thistle	white woolly hairs on much of the herbage (Lat. *albus* 'white')
	Echinops sphaerocephalus L.	glandular globe-thistle	white flowers
	Onopordum acanthium L.	cotton thistle	white woolly hairs covering the plant
Gramen ***album***	*Eriophorum*	cotton grass	snow-white fluff on heads
Virga ***argentea***	*Erigeron canadensis* L.	horseweed	white petals (Lat. *argenteus* 'silvery')
Mater ***nigra***	*Centaurea iacea* L.	brown knapweed	dark flower heads (Lat. *niger* 'black')
	Centaurea nigra L.	black knapweed	

As we can see, sometimes one Latin name referred to more than one species. It is remarkable that some English equivalents of historical Latin plant names contain the terms of colours too.

There are also names of colours in other botanic terms in different European languages which imitated the ancient tradition of naming plants:

historical name in a European language	**scientific name**	**English name**	**semantic motivation**
Germ. ***blow*** *violen* (1500), ***blaw*** *Violen* (1543)	*Viola odorata* L.	wood violet, sweet violet	dark blue flowers (Germ. *blau* 'blue')
Germ. ***rote*** *Buck* (1532)	*Artemisia vulgaris* L.	mug wort, common wormwood	red-brown flowers (Germ. *rot* 'red')
Pol. ***czerwony*** *dzwonek* (1613)	*Hypericum perforatum* L.	common Saint John's wort	red sap of flowers (Pol. *czerwony* 'red')
Slovak *zbožná* ***červená*** *ružička* (1825) (Buffa 1972)	*Agrostemma githago* L.	common corn-cockle	red-purple flowers (Slovak *červený* 'red')
Pol. ***żółcień*** (1564)	*Calendula officinalis* L.	pot marigold, common marigold	yellow-orange flowers (Pol. *żółty* 'yellow')

Contemporary plant names are also motivated by colours. It concerns Latin scientific plant names, standard plant names in different European languages as well as dialectal names. It is worth noticing that some Linnaean names depend on historical Latin plant names; Linnaeus was obviously inspired by old names and adapted them to modern botany. There are some examples of Latin scientific plant names containing terms of colours:

scientific name	**English name**	**semantic motivation**
Digitalis ***purpurea*** L.	common foxglove	red-purple flowers (Lat. *purpureus* 'purple')
Acer ***rubrum*** L.	red maple	red foliage in autumn, red flowers (Lat. *ruber* 'red')
Piper ***nigrum*** L.	black pepper	black fruits
Lamium ***album*** L.	white nettle, white dead-nettle	white flowers
Potentilla ***argentea*** L.	silver cinquefoil	white tomentum covering the whole plant
*Solidago virga-****aurea*** L.	European goldenrod	yellow flowers
Nuphar ***lutea*** (L.) Sibth. & Sm.	yellow water-lily	

The next group contains examples of standard plant names in different European languages. The species are named because of the colour of their various parts:

name in a European language	**scientific name**	**English name**	**semantic motivation**
Fr. *chénopode* ***blanc***	*Chenopodium album* L.	white goosefoot, melde	whitish coat on the underside of the leaves (Fr. *blanc* 'white')
Fr. *serpentaire* ***rouge***	*Bistorta officinalis* Del., syn. *Polygonum bistorta* L.	bistort	reddish-brown rhizome, pink flowers (Fr. *rouge* 'red')
Fr. ***bleuet***	*Centaurea cyanus* L.	cornflower	blue flowers (Fr. *bleu* 'blue')
Engl. ***yellow*** *dock*	*Rumex crispus* L.	= yellow dock	yellow inflorescence
Engl. ***red*** *poppy*	*Papaver rhoeas* L.	= red poppy	red flowers
Germ. ***Gold****rute*	*Solidago virga-aurea* L.	European goldenrod	yellow flowers (Germ. *Gold* 'gold')
Germ. ***schwarzer*** *Nachtschatten*	*Solanum nigrum* L.	European black nightshade	black fruits (Germ. *schwarz* 'black')
Germ. ***weisser*** *Senf*	*Sinapis alba* L.	white mustard	pale yellow seeds (Germ. *weiss* 'white')
Pol. *komosa* ***czerwonawa***	*Chenopodium rubrum* L.	red goosefoot	reddish inflorescence (Pol. *czerwonawy* 'reddish')
Pol. *nostrzyk* ***żółty***	*Melilotus officinalis* (L.) Pall.	yellow sweet clover, yellow melilot	yellow flowers

It should be highlighted that many plant names motivated by colours appear in dialects of different European languages. There are some examples:

dialectal name in a European language	**scientific name**	**English standard name**	**semantic motivation**
Engl. dial. ***gold*** *chain*	*Sedum acre* L.	gold moss stonecrop	golden-yellow flowers
Germ. dial. ***rote*** *Blume*	*Paeonia*	peony	most often red or pink flowers
Germ. dial. ***Rot****-Enzen*	*Gentiana purpurea* L.	purple gentian	brown-red flowers
Dan. dial. ***guld****knap*	*Tanacetum vulgare* L.	tansy, golden buttons	yellow flowers (Dan. *guld* 'gold')
Fr. dial. *tue-loup* ***bleu***, *tore* ***bleue***	*Aconitum napellus* L.	monk's-hood, aconite, wolfs bane	blue flowers
Pol. dial. ***modrak***	*Centaurea cyanus* L.	cornflower	blue flowers (Pol. *modry* 'deep blue')
Pol. dial. ***czerwonka***	*Rumex hydrolapathum* Huds.	great water dock	reddish inflorescence and stalk
Czech dial. ***zlatý květ***	*Caltha palustris* L.	marsh-marigold	yellow flowers (Czech *zlatý* 'golden')

Sloven. dial. ***črna*** *pura*	*Pimpinella saxifraga* L.	burnet-saxifrage, lesser burnet	dark blue colour of the inside of the rhizome (Sloven. *črn* 'black')
Croat. dial. *iskrica* ***žuta***	*Ranunculus acer* L.	meadow buttercup	yellow flowers (Croat. *žuti* 'yellow')
Ukr. dial. ***biłavka***, ***bilavka***	*Bellis perennis* L.	common daisy	white flowers (Ukr. *бíлий* 'white')
Ukr. dial. ***biło***hołovnyk	*Achillea millefolium* L.	yarrow	
Russ. dial. ***желтый*** *молочай*	*Chelidonium maius* L.	swallowwort	yellow flowers (Russ. *желтый* 'yellow')

A deeper analysis shows that European standard and dialectal plant names often are a continuation of historical names, especially historical Latin (pre-Linnaean) ones. It is visible in names motivated by colours, cf. for example Lat. hist. *Virga* ***aurea*** and its exact translations: Eng. *European* ***golden****rod*, Germ. ***Gold****rute*, Pol. dial. ***złota*** *rózga* (*Solidago virga-aurea* L.), names inspired by the yellow colour of this plant's flowers[1].

Several species of plants are so strongly associated with a given colour that in the majority of languages their names are all motivated by this particular colour. One of these species is red clover, *Trifolium pratense* L., which has dark pink flowers. Their colour influenced already the historical Latin names of this plant, cf. Lat. *trifolium pratense* ***purpureum***, *trifolium pratense* ***rubrum*** (1623) and, subsequently, other historical names in different languages such as:

- Germ. ***Rother*** *Klee* (1829), ***Rot****klee* (1878);
- Dutch ***roode*** *klaver* (earlier);
- Dan. ***rød****kløver* (1767);

[1] This phenomenon is also observable in many other dialectal botanical names, cf. e.g.: Med. Lat. *branca ursina, branca ursi* and Russ. dial. *медвѣжья лапа* (Annenkov 1878), Sloven. dial. *medvedove tace, medvedova taca, medvedova dlan* (Barlè 1937, Simonović BR, Karlin 1964), Croat. dial. *taca medvedova, medviđa šapa, medvjeđi dlan*, Serb. dial. *медвеђи длан, мечја шапа* (Šugar HBI, Simonović BR). These dialectal names are calques of the Medieval Latin metaphorical name for *Heracleum sphondylium* L. (common hogweed) and are all motivated by the shape of this plant's leaves, imagined to be similar to a bear's paw.

- Swed. ***röd****vepling* (1716), ***röd****klöfver* (1806).

Contemporary standard names of red clover in many European languages also refer to the colour of its flowers, cf. e.g.:

- Dutch ***rode*** *klaver*;
- Fr. *trèfle* ***rouge***;
- Span. *trébol* ***rojo***, *trébol* ***violeta***;
- Port. *trevo* ***vermelho***;
- It. *trefòi* ***ross*** (Brescia), *trifoglio* ***rosso***, *trifoglio* ***violetto***;
- Rum. *trifoi-****roșu***;
- Pol. *koniczyna* ***czerwona***;
- Czech *jetel* ***červený***;
- Russ. *клевер* ***красный***;
- Ukr. ***червона*** *конюшина*, ***червоний*** *горішок*;
- Serb. ***црвена*** *детелина*.

Red clover has also, for example in German, several metaphorical names connected to the colour of its flowers. They relate to an item associated with red (or pink) colour that could be important and typical in the past, namely meat (Germ. *Fleisch*). There are historical and later dialectal German names such as: ***Fleisch****blumen* (1500, 1532, 1539, 1582, 1588), ***Fleisch****klee* (1829) and just ***Fleisch*** (cf. Marzell 2000 IV col. 784–785).

Speaking about metaphorical names, the importance of taboo in the act of naming plants must not be forgotten. The names of poisonous plants, also motivated by colours, are a good example because they often act as a warning. E.g., there is a highly poisonous, hallucinogenic species, *Hyoscyamus* ***niger*** L., which has the following names in various languages:

- Eng. ***black*** *henbane*;
- Fr. *jusquiame* ***noire***;
- Span. *beleño* ***negro***;
- It. *giusquiamo* ***nero***;

- Germ. ***schwarze*** *Bilsenkraut*;
- Pol. *lulek* ***czarny***;
- Russ. *белена* ***черная***.

Similarly, other poisonous plants are often "black" too, for instance:

- pasque flower, *Pulsatilla*, which is highly toxic, is called ***černá*** *bylina* in Slovak dialects (Slovak *černý* 'black');
- poisonous common corn-cockle, *Agrostemma githago* L., is called ***czarnucha*** in Polish dialects (Pol. *czarny* 'black');
- mug wort, *Artemisia vulgaris* L., which is toxic in larger quantities, is called ***чорнобиль*** in Ukrainian (Ukr. *чорний* 'black').

As we can see, the colour black plays a primary role here as a metaphorical reference to danger and death.

Another observation to be made is that plant names motivated by colours do not always contain the proper names of colours. Sometimes, especially in metaphorical names, there are only references to some elements associated with given colours or typical to them. Such names appeared both in the past and do so nowadays. Some examples are given here:

name in a European language	**scientific name**	**English name**	**semantic motivation**
Germ. ***Butter****blume* (1673)	*Taraxacum officinale* Web.	dandelion	yellow flowers (of the colour of butter)
Germ. dial. ***Katzenauge***	*Veronica chamaedrys* L.	germander speedwell	cerulean blue flowers (of the colour of a cat's eye)
Fr. dial. *pantoufes de Marie*	*Aconitum napellus* L.	monk's-hood, aconite, wolfs bane	blue flowers (of the colour related to Saint Mary)
Pol. dial. ***niebioska***	*Myosotis*	forget-me-not	cerulean blue flowers (of the colour of the sky – Pol. *niebo*)
Ukr. dial. ***sońačnyk*** *travovyj*, ***sonnyk*** *travnyj*	*Ranunculus acer* L.	meadow buttercup	yellow flowers (of the colour of the sun – Ukr. *сонце*)
Ukr. dial. *Ісуса кров*, *Христова кров*	*Hypericum perforatum* L.	common Saint John's wort	red sap of flowers (of the colour of the blood (of Christ) – Ukr. *кров* 'blood')

Finally, it should be noted that colour can play a role in distinguishing between species and even between genera of plants. As an example of such a situation, allow it to be mentioned that Croatian denominations *patlidžan* ***modri*** and *patlidžan* ***plavi*** (literally 'blue eggplant') refer to the eggplant, *Solanum melongena* L., while the name *patlidžan* ***crveni*** (literally 'red eggplant') refers to the tomato, *Solanum lycopersicum* L. Similarly, Macedonian ***crn*** ('black') or ***modar*** ('blue') *patlidžan* mean 'eggplant' and ***crven*** ('red') *patlidžan* signify 'tomato' (cf. Waniakowa 1999: 62; Dębowiak & Waniakowa 2016: 85).

Summary and outlook

As can be seen from the above-mentioned division of names due to their semantics, the names of plants are motivated by several main general features: the appearance of the plant, the place of its occurrence, properties of the plant, its usage and other motivations specific to the genus or species. The semantic motivation of phytonyms is the basis of the nomination mechanism. To decipher it properly, one needs a thorough botanical, cultural, historical and linguistic knowledge. Without it, an in-depth study of the origin of plant names is difficult, if not impossible.

Finally, regarding the topic of status of plant names in dictionaries, one should remark that only a small part of them appear in general dictionaries, that is, exclusively the most commonly known ones are to be found in non-specialist lexicographic works. Nevertheless, phytonyms are present considerably more often in dictionaries and works describing lexical resources of particular dialects and, obviously, devoted strictly to botanic terminology, such as Annenkov 1878, Makowiecki 1936, Marzell 2000.

Furthermore, the above review allows us to conclude that colours have played a significant role in the mechanism of naming plants ever since. There are some groups of semantic motivation that can be identified, but the most popular seems to be the one related to the appearance of plants and their most characteristic features. The names of colours are usually present in botanical

names as attributives referring to nouns. However, examples such as Pol. *żółcień*. *modrak*, *czerwonka*, *czarnucha*, Ukr. *bilavka*, Fr. *bleuet* show that plant names which are motivated by colours do not always have a two-part structure (noun and adjective of colour), but can also be derivatives from adjectives of colour.

Moreover, it is worth emphasizing some general issues that are manifest in our material:

- there are close connections between some dialectal European plant names and pre-Linnaean Latin nomenclature;
- Linnaean scientific plant names depend sometimes on Latin historical names;
- taboo often played an important role in the act of naming plants, visible also in some botanical names motivated by colours.

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Brus. dial. *дикая цикорія*, **dandelion**, lit. 'wild chicory'
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Brus. dial. *сребник*, *срибник*, *сярэбранік*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'
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Bulg. dial. *медна детелина*, *медовенъ трилистникъ*, **yellow sweet clover**, lit. 'honey clover'
Bulg. dial. *млечка*, **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'
Bulg. dial. *царска свѣщь*, **mullein**, lit. 'king's candle'

Croat. *mliječ*, **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'
Croat. dial. *bodeća jabuka*, **thorn-apple**, lit. 'pricking apple'
Croat. dial. *mlačak*, *mlečec*, *mličak*, *mliječnjak*, **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'
Croat. dial. *peter*, *petriš*, **common chicory**, lit. 'Peter (plant)'
Croat. dial. *puhalica*, *puhavka*, **dandelion**, lit. 'blowing (plant)'

Croat. dial. *škrbinka*, **cabbage thistle**, lit. 'scraping, rattling (plant)'
Croat. dial. *žicara*, **common knotgrass**, lit. 'wire (plant)'

Czech *jablko trnové, bodlavé jablko*, **thorn-apple**
Czech *kořen mýdlový*, **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap root'
Czech *medvědí lapa*, **running clubmoss**, lit. 'bear's paw'
Czech dial. *koření sv. Petra*, **common chicory**, lit. 'St. Peter's roots'
Czech dial. *lví zub*, **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'
Czech dial. *mléč, mlíč*, **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'
Czech dial. *mordovník*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'murder (plant)'
Czech dial. *pantoflíčky*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'slippers'
Czech dial. *ranocel*, **plantain**, lit. 'healing wounds (plant)'
Czech dial. *slaměnka*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw (plant)'
Czech dial. *stříbrník, stříbrníček*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'
Czech dial. *svíce královská*, **mullein**, lit. 'king's candle'
Czech dial. *vlačeha, vláčeha*, **running clubmoss**, lit. 'crawling, creeping (plant)'
Old Czech, Czech dial. *kozlík*, Czech dial. *kozelec*, **valerian**, lit. 'little buck'

Dan. *stråblomst*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw flower'

Dutch *stroobloem*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw flower'
Dutch *weegbree*, **plantain**, lit. 'by the roadside (plant)'
Dutch *zilverkruid*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver herb'

Engl. *wolfsbane*, **monk's-hood**
Engl. *iron grass*, **common knotgrass**
Engl. dial. *lion's tooth*, **dandelion**

Fr. *argentine*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'
Fr. *bleuet*, **cornflower**, lit. 'blue (flower)'
Fr. *fleur de paille*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw flower'
Fr. *herbe argentée*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver grass'
Fr. *herbe de fer*, **common knotgrass**, lit. 'iron herb'
Fr. *ne-m'oubliez-pas*, **forget-me-not**
Fr. *plantain à cinq nerfs*, **broadleaf plantain**, lit. 'five nerves plantain'
Fr. dial. *herbe à savon*, **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap herb'
Fr. dial. *pantoufes de Marie*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'Mary's slippers'
Old Fr. *dent de lion*, **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Germ. *Bärenlapp*, **running clubmoss**, lit. 'bear's paw'

Germ. *eisenkrut*, *Eisenkraut*, **common knotgrass**, lit. 'iron herb'

Germ. *Eisengras*, **common knotgrass**, lit. 'iron grass'

Germ. *Fünfadern-Kraut*, *Fünfadere(n)krut*, **broadleaf plantain**, lit. 'five nerves herb'

Germ. *Fiefaderblatt*, **broadleaf plantain**, lit. 'five nerves leaf'

Germ. *gemeiner Stechapfel*, **thorn-apple**, lit. 'common pricking apple'

Germ. *Honigklee*, **yellow sweet clover**, lit. 'honey clover'

Germ. *Königskerze*, **mullein**, lit. 'king's candle'

Germ. *Löwenzahn*, **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Germ. *Pfefferkraut*, **water-pepper**, lit. 'pepper herb'

Germ. *Sand-Strohblume*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'sand-straw flower'

Germ. *Scharfkraut*, **water-pepper**, lit. 'spicy herb'

Germ. *Schlangenwurz*, **snakeroot**

Germ. *Seifenkraut*, **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap herb'

Germ. *Silberkraut*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver herb'

Germ. *Teufelswurz*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'devil's root'

Germ. *Vergißmeinnicht*, **forget-me-not**

Germ. *Wegerich*, **plantain**, lit. 'by the roadside (plant)'

Germ. *Wundkraut*, **plantain**, lit. 'wound herb'

Germ. *Ziegentod*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'goat's death'

Germ. dial. *Pantoffeln*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'slippers'

Germ. dial. *Strohblaum*, *Strieħbloume*, *Strîhblâm*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw flower'

Germ. dial. *Teufelskraut*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'devil's herb'

Germ. dial. *Totenblume*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'death flowers'

It. *argentina*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'

It. *erba savona*, **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap herb'

It. *non ti scordar di me*, **forget-me-not**

Kash. *gojące listki*, **plantain**, lit. 'healing leaves'

Kash. *pięciożyłki*, **broadleaf plantain**, lit. 'five nerves (plant)'

Lith. *šiaudinė*, *šiaudinėlis*, *šiaudinikė*, *šiaudinukas*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw (plant)'

Med. Lat. *argentaria*, *argentina*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'

Med. Lat. *colubrina*, *viperina*, *viperana*, *viperaria*, *viperina rubea*, **snakeroot**, lit. 'adder (plant)'

Med. Lat. *dragantea*, *dragentea*, *dragenthea*, *dragon*, *dragonthea*, *draguntea*, *serpentaria*, *serpentaria maior*, *serpentina*, *serpentina maior*, *serpentina rubea*, **snakeroot**, lit. 'snake (plant)'

Med. Lat. *dens leonis*, **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Med. Lat. *melilotum*, *melilotus*, *mellilotum*, *mellilotus*, **yellow sweet clover**, lit. 'honey lotus'

Med. Lat. *pes ursinus*, **running clubmoss**, lit. 'bear's paw'

Med. Lat. *quinquenervia maior*, **broadleaf plantain**, lit. 'five nerves (plant)'

Med. Lat. *saponaria*, **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap (plant)'

Pol. *chaber bławatek*, **cornflower**, lit. 'blue cornflower'

Pol. *dmuchawiec*, **dandelion**, lit. 'blowing (plant)'

Pol. *mlecz*, **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'

Pol. *mydlnica lekarska*, **common soapwort**, lit. 'medicinal soap (plant)'

Pol. *niezapominajka*, **forget-me-not**, lit. 'forget-me-not (plant)'

Pol. *rdest ostrogorzki*, **water-pepper**, lit. 'spicy-bitter water-pepper'

Pol. *słomianka*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw (plant)'

Pol. *wężownik*, **snakeroot**, lit. 'snake (plant)'

Pol. dial. *babimór*, *morzybab*, **running clubmoss**, lit. 'hag killer'

Pol. dial. *bławat*, **cornflower**, lit. 'blue (flower)'

Pol. dial. *chrobust*, **cabbage thistle**, lit. 'scraping, rattling (plant)'

Pol. dial. *cykoria*, **dandelion**, lit. 'chicory'

Pol. dial. *cykoria żółta*, **dandelion**, lit. 'yellow chicory'

Pol. dial. *czołga*, *włóczęga*, **running clubmoss**, lit. 'crawling, creeping (plant)'

Pol. dial. *drutowiec*, **common knotgrass**, lit. 'wire (plant)'

Pol. dial. *dzika cykoria*, **dandelion**, lit. 'wild chicory'

Pol. dial. *jabłko cierniste*, **thorn-apple**

Pol. dial. *korzeń św. Piotra*, **common chicory**, lit. 'St. Peter's root'

Pol. dial. *koziołek*, **valerian**, lit. 'little buck'

Pol. dial. *królewska świeca*, **mullein**, lit. 'king's candle'

Pol. dial. *łapa niedźwiedzia*, **running clubmoss**, lit. 'bear's paw'

Pol. dial. *lwi ząb*, **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Pol. dial. *miodownik*, **yellow sweet clover**, lit. 'honey (plant)'

Pol. dial. *mordownik*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'murder (plant)'

Pol. dial. *pantofelki*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'slippers'

Pol. dial. *parzydło*, **common agrimony**, lit. 'scald (plant)'

Pol. dial. *pępawa*, **dandelion**, lit. 'swelled (plant)'

Pol. dial. *podróżnik*, **plantain**, lit. 'by the roadside (plant)'

Pol. dial. *ranocel*, **plantain**, lit. 'healing wounds (plant)'

Pol. dial. *srebrnik*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'

Port. *dente-de-leão*, **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Port. *mata-lobos*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'wolves killer'

Port. *não-me-esqueças*, **forget-me-not**

Port. *persicária-mordaz*, **water-pepper**, lit. 'bitter water-pepper'

Port. *persicária-picante*, **water-pepper**, lit. 'spicy water-pepper'

Port. *vela-de-bruxa*, **mullein**, lit. 'hag's candle'

Rom. *flori-de-paie*, **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw flowers'

Rom. *nu mă uita*, **forget-me-not**

Russ. *горе́ц пе́речный*, **water-pepper**, lit. 'peppery bitter (plant)'

Russ. *змеиный ко́рень*, **snakeroot**

Russ. *незабудка*, **forget-me-not**, lit. 'forget-me-not (plant)'

Russ. *подорожник*, **plantain**, lit. 'by the roadside (plant)'

Russ. dial. *дикая цикория*, *дикій цикорь*, **dandelion**, lit. 'wild chicory'

Russ. dial. *дорожник*, *придорожник*, **plantain**, lit. 'by the roadside (plant)'

Russ. dial. *желтая цыкорія*, **dandelion**, lit. 'yellow chicory'

Russ. dial. *козелок*, *козіолкы*, **valerian**, lit. 'little buck(s)'

Russ, dial. *козельцовый корень*, **valerian**, lit. 'little buck's root'

Russ. dial. *колюки-яблоки* , **thorn-apple**

Russ. dial. *львиный зубъ*, *львиный зубецъ*, **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Russ. dial. *молочай*, *молочникъ*, **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'

Russ. dial. *моримордъ*, **monk's-hood**, lit. 'murder (plant)'

Russ. dial. *мыльный корень*, **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap root'

Russ. dial. *парыло*, **common agrimony**, lit. 'scald (plant)'

Russ. dial. *серебрянникъ*, **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'

Russ. dial. *судопаръ*, *судоноръ*, **common agrimony**, lit. 'pottery burner'

Russ. dial. *царская свѣча*, **mullein**, lit. 'king's candle'

Serb. *млеч*, Serb. dial. *млечак*, *мличак*, *млечац*, *млечец*, **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'

Serb. dial. *бодећа јабука*, *бодљива јабука*, **thorn-apple**, lit. 'pricking apple'

Serb. dial. *краљевска свиђа*, **mullein**, lit. 'king's candle'

Serb. dial. *петер*, **common chicory**, lit. 'Peter (plant)'

Slovak *blavač*, **cornflower**, lit. 'blue (flower)'

Slovak *horčiak pieprový*, **water-pepper**, lit. 'peppery bitter (plant)'

Slovak *ježkové jablko,* **thorn-apple**

Slovak *koreň sv. Petra, korenie sv. Petra,* **common chicory**, lit. 'St. Peter's root(s)'

Slovak *kozlík,* **valerian**, lit. 'little buck'

Slovak *mliečˇ, mleč, mlič,* **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'

Slovak *mordovník,* **monk's-hood**, lit. 'murder (plant)'

Slovak *mydlový koreň, mydelny koreň, mydlikoreň,* **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap root'

Slovak *púpava,* **dandelion**, lit. 'swelled (plant)'

Slovak *ranocel,* **plantain**, lit. 'healing wounds (plant)'

Slovak dial. *cestni zelina,* **plantain**, lit. 'road herb'

Slovak dial. *levský zub, ľví zubec,* **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Slovak dial. *medvedi noha, medvedia tlapa,* **running clubmoss**, lit. 'bear's paw'

Slovak dial. *slamiha,* **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw (plant)'

Slovak dial. *striebrník,* **common silverweed (midsummer silver)**, lit. 'silver (plant)'

Slovak dial. *vlačuha,* **running clubmoss**, lit. 'crawling, creeping (plant)'

Sloven. dial. *bodeča jabuka,* **thorn-apple**, lit. 'pricking apple'

Sloven. dial. *levov zob,* **dandelion**, lit. 'lion's tooth'

Sloven. dial. *medena detelja,* **yellow sweet clover**, lit. 'honey clover'

Sloven. dial. *mlečec, mlečje,* **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'

Sorb. *mlóč, mlóčnak,* **dandelion**, lit. 'milk (plant)'

Sp. *azulejo,* **cornflower**, lit. 'blue (flower)'

Sp. *nomeolvides,* **forget-me-not**

Sp. *persicaria acre,* **water-pepper**, lit. 'sour water-pepper'

Sp. *persicaria picante,* **water-pepper**, lit. 'spicy water-pepper'

Swed. *bitterpilört,* **water-pepper**, lit. 'bitter smartweed'

Swed. *stråblomster,* **dwarf everlast**, lit. 'straw flower'

Ukr. dial. *błavat,* **cornflower**, lit. 'blue (flower)'

Ukr. dial. *carśka svičˇka,* **mullein**, lit. 'king's candle'

Ukr. dial. *cykoryja,* **dandelion**, lit. 'chicory'

Ukr. dial. *hojove łysťa,* **plantain**, lit. 'healing leaves'

Ukr. dial. *kozlak,* **valerian**, lit. 'little buck (plant)'

Ukr. dial. *mołočˇ dykyj,* **dandelion**, lit. 'wild milk (plant)'

Ukr. dial. *mylnyj koriń,* **common soapwort**, lit. 'soap root'

Ukr. dial. *paryło,* **common agrimony**, lit. 'scald (plant)'

Ukr. dial. *podorožnyk,* **plantain**, lit. 'by the roadside (plant)'

Ukr. dial. *užovnyk*, **snakeroot**, lit. 'snake (plant)'

Ukr. dial. *χrobust*, *χrabust*, **cabbage thistle**, lit. 'scraping, rattling (plant)'